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**ICU MAKES QUALITY ADVANCES
THROUGH LEADING KEYSTONE PROJECT**

MUSKEGON, MI, October 26, 2005 -- Hackley Hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) participated in a major 18-month initiative to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety. This initiative is one of the largest health care quality-improvement projects of its kind in the world.

"Keystone: ICU," a joint-effort launched by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association and Johns Hopkins University, Quality & Safety Research Group, worked with Michigan Hospitals to reduce bloodstream infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia rates. Simple interventions included more rigorous reviews on patient's need for ventilators or catheter delivery systems, hand-washing reminders and elevation of a patient's head while on a ventilator.

"We used evidence-based practices and our continuous communication played a big part in the success," says Marcia D'Oyle, RN, Hackley Critical Care. Keystone participants used collaborative learning models including telephone conference calls, web-based learning tools and meetings during the improvement initiative. "It really was a fabulous experience-- it's all about patient safety," she stated. "Our multi-disciplinary approach helped us accomplish so much within a short time period."

About five million U.S. patients are hospitalized yearly in ICU's, typically for three to five days, at a cost of \$180 billion a year. About half require a catheter and 30% to 50% might need a ventilator at some time in their hospital stay.

Hackley Hospital was one of over 70 Michigan hospitals participating in the Keystone project. Project data was collected between March 2004 and June 2005. Keystone recognized Hackley's ICU for no ventilator acquired pneumonia since July 2004 and no catheter-related infections since January 2005.

"Patient safety and health care costs are of major concern in our community," says Gordon Mudler, President/CEO. "This innovative collaboration to improve patient safety and health care quality will affect the bottom line of area employers and citizens. We're committed to providing superior quality service to our community," he continued. "Our ICU team gives evidence to that commitment."

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